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Leading the News

Climate Change

U.S. Finds Isolated Climate Change Stance at G-7 Talks

Two days of talks among Group of Seven environment ministers confirmed a crack between the world's other leading industrial nations and the U.S. over climate change issues.

Insurance

Insurers May Face Challenges From a U.S. Climate Deal Exit

The insurance industry could face challenges from climate change in the long term if the U.S. exits the Paris climate accord. But the industry sees the deal's goals as reachable through other methods, the world's largest reinsurer told Bloomberg BNA.

International Climate

EPA Head Blamed Obama for Paris Deal at G-7 Climate Summit

Environmental Protection Agency chief Scott Pruitt blamed former President Barack Obama for forging a bad Paris climate deal, leaving the U.S. with the job of extricating itself, the German environment minister said.

International Climate

U.S. Says It Has Seat at Climate Talks—But Is It at Kids' Table?

The White House is insisting it will still have a seat at the table at the next United Nations climate summit just before Thanksgiving in Bonn—but President Donald Trump's exit from the Paris climate pact may mean the U.S. won't be sitting at the adults' table. Administration officials, including Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, insisted the U.S. still has a voice in climate negotiations, noting Trump stopped short of pulling out of ...

News

Air Pollution

EPA Air Pollution Model Gets Inspector General Scrutiny

The EPA's process for approving the air pollution modeling methods it recommends for state regulators is slated for review by the agency's inspector general.

Chemical Security

Pruitt Delays Chemical Plant Regulation Changes to 2019

Chemical companies, oil refiners and other industrial sites will see a reprieve from an Obama administration regulation that would have imposed new safety requirements, the Environmental Protection Agency said.

Chemicals

Easing EPA Chemical Reporting Could Promote Recycling

Companies want to enlist the EPA's help so they can recycle valuable metals and other inorganic chemicals and cut down the amount of time and money they're spending filling out paperwork.

Coal Mining

Arch Coal Could Expand Mining in Colorado Under Draft Plan

Arch Coal Inc. would be able to expand the area it can explore for coal deposits in northwest Colorado under the Forest Service's preferred alternative in a recent environmental analysis, raising the ire of environmentalists.

Contribution

Mining Company Not Liable as Successor in Superfund Suit

A limestone mining company won't face Superfund liability as the successor of another company because there was no overlap in ownership, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Virginia said (*Dixon Lumber Co. v. Austinville Limestone Co.*, 2017 BL 196075, W.D. Va., Civil Action No. 7:16-cv-00130, 6/9/17).

Emissions Trading

California Budget Bills Fail to Extend Cap-and-Trade

California budget bills on June 12 didn't include legislation Gov. Jerry Brown (D) is seeking to reauthorize the state's greenhouse gas emissions cap-and-trade program.

Energy

Big Oil's Clean Energy Ambitions Face Limits, Consultant Says

The world's biggest oil companies probably won't become renewable energy majors, according to industry consultant Wood Mackenzie Ltd.

Energy

Hydro Bills Pass House as Senate Takes Up Similar Measures

The House signed off on a set of hydropower and minor energy bills June 12, just as a Senate panel prepared to take up its own hydro measures.

Groundwater

India Sets July Deadline for Industries to Get Groundwater Permits

Industries that extract water from underground to mine, manufacture and build products will have until July 13 to obtain "no objection" permits from India's federal groundwater authority, the government announced.

International Climate

Europe's Climate Advice Business Resilient to Trump Paris Exit

Europe's largest architecture and engineering consultancy says President Donald Trump's decision to pull the U.S. out of the Paris climate accord won't disrupt demand for advice on efforts to counter global warming.

Mergers and Acquisitions

Dow-DuPont Deal Clears India, Leaving U.S., Canada to Sign Off

DuPont Co. and the Dow Chemical Co. have cleared a major hurdle to their tie-up with conditional approval from the Competition Commission of India for their \$78.5 billion merger. There are only two major countries left to approve the deal — Canada and the U.S.

Natural Resources

Bears Ears Monument Boundaries Probably Extend Too Far: Zinke

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is recommending a reduction of the size of the Bears Ears National Monument and a legislative change to allow tribal co-management of the monument, Zinke told reporters in a teleconference June 12.

Renewable Energy

Goldman Is Buying Clean Energy to Help Power Its U.S. Operations

Goldman Sachs Group Inc. isn't just matching renewable-power plants with corporations looking to buy wind or solar power. It'll soon be a buyer of clean energy, too.

Science Policy

EPA Research Office Deputizes House Science Committee Aide

A House Science, Space and Technology committee staff member took over the EPA deputy slot at the Office of Research and Development (ORD) June 12, according to an internal memo obtained by Bloomberg BNA.

Toxic Torts

Flint Water Crisis Class Action Won't Get SCOTUS Eye

A class action alleging an engineering firm didn't protect Flint, Mich., residents from lead contamination will remain in state court after the U.S. Supreme Court denied review June 12 (Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam v. Mason, U.S., No. 16-1092, review denied 6/12/17).

Water Pollution

Landfill Firm, Town Should Clean Up Private Wells, Suit Charges

The owners and operators of a suburban Massachusetts landfill should pay for allegedly contaminating the drinking water wells of close to 100 nearby residents, environmental groups and residents charge in a lawsuit filed in federal court.

Correction

The story, "Lawmakers, Regulators Stress Urgency to Renew Mine Cleanup Fee," published June 8, was updated to reflect new information about the expenditure of Abandoned Mine Land funds, which the agency submitted to Congress after the hearing. The online version has been updated.

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